

Approved For Release 1999/09/09 : CIA-RDP82-00457R002300690008-7
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT NO

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)
SUBJECT SED Shop Group Activity

FEB 17 9 57 AM '49

DATE DISTR. 18 February 1949

NO. OF PAGES 4

PLACE
ACQUIRED

Document No.

NO. OF ENCLS. 1

NO/CHANGE in Class. ☐

DECLASSIFIED

CLASS. CHANGED TO: 38

DDA Memo 4 Apr

Auth: DDA REG- 57-11-35

**SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.**

DATE OF IN
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The following outline of SED activities in a large Berlin industrial concern is designed to shed light on SED party organization, the degree of SED penetration of industrial establishments in the Soviet Sector of Berlin, and the "Partei-Aktivs". The establishment selected for this outline of a typical SED industrial set-up is a Soviet AG, Siemens-Plania, Berlin-Lichtenberg. Siemens-Plania has 26000 employees, of whom 260 are members of the SED Shop Group.

1. The basic party organization in an industry is the Shop Group (Betriebsgruppe), composed of all party members employed by that particular industry. The primary chain of party command and supervision for such a group is through the SED Kreis Headquarters of the Kreis in which the industry is located to the responsible Landesverband -- in this case Landesverband Berlin. There are, however, other chains of command and control which are best displayed by means of a diagram (see Attachment). In addition to the supervision outlined in the Attachment to this report, there are the further checks provided by the SED House Blocks, City Districts, and Kreise under whose competence the various members of the Shop Group reside. That is to say, each member of the Shop Group is carried on the membership rolls of the SED party organization responsible for the neighborhood in which he lives. Thus a member is not only subject to the surveillance and proddings of his party comrades at his place of work, but also carries on his private life after working hours under the watchful eyes of party members in his neighborhood.

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Comment: The question whether the Screening Commissions ("Überprüfungskommissionen") of a party member's residential Kreis or of the Kreis of his place of work shall have jurisdiction is decided on an individual basis, with the residential Kreis usually having ultimate responsibility.)

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2. Functionary posts of the Siemens-Plania Shop Group:

1st Chairman and Secretary: These are two separate functions. As 1st Chairman, this functionary is head of the Shop Group, and is elected to the post, usually at the direction of the Kreis, by the Shop Group. As permanent secretary of the Shop Group, appointed by the SED Central Secretariat, he is the professional functionary, representing the voice of the top governing body of the party. Hans Konradi receives his salary from Siemens-Plania, but devotes his full time to party work. About 33 years of age, he was a KPD member before the war, spent four years in Russia as a PW, headed an "Antifa" camp there. He speaks good Russian, is not very intelligent.

2nd Chairman and Functionary for Organization ("Orgleiter"): This is essentially one function, inasmuch as the Orgleiter of a Shop Group is automatically 2nd Chairman. He receives his salary from Siemens-Plania, but devotes full time to party work. Blankenstein, a former bookkeeper, is the 2nd Chairman.

Functionary for Personnel ("Personalobmann"): Wratzke, an employee of the plant, is in charge of personnel for the Shop Group and works closely with Golsch, Personnel Adviser on the "German" Economic Commission (DWK) and Personalobmann for Soviet AGs and Treuhänderbetriebsgruppen in Kreis Lichtenberg.

Functionary for Trade Unions and Chief of the Shop Council ("Gewerkschaftsfunktionär, Leiter der Betriebsgewerkschaftsleitung"): A double function. Tomazewske, as Gewerkschaftsfunktionär, represents the party interests in union matters; as Leiter der Betriebsgewerkschaftsleitung, he replaces the Betriebsrat prescribed by German law which was eliminated in the Soviet Sector and the Soviet Zone late in 1948. No "trade union" enters the question, of course, other than the Communist front "FDGB".

Youth Functionary ("Jugendfunktionär"): Grünhagen, a former Hitler Youth employed in the plant, is in charge of youth activities for the Shop Group. He is at the same time head of the FDJ in the plant.

Plant Social Director: Paul Lerm, a graduate engineer, was appointed directly to this post by the Landesverband in July 1948. In this capacity he is a plant official and also a Shop Group functionary.

Women's Functionary and 1st Chairman of the Plant's DFB Group: Lucie Scharfenort is in charge of women's social welfare in the plant, and represents women members of the Shop Group.

Cashier:
Chahner: Collects dues, and accounts for Shop Group party funds.

Administrative Secretary ("Schriftführer"): Keeps minutes of meetings and official Shop Group records. Böhnke, who holds the position, is under the supervision of the permanent secretary.

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3. Another organization within Siemens-Plania, although not a part of the Shop Group, must be mentioned in discussing the plant SED functionaries. This is the newly formed Economic Planning Commission for the plant. It is related to the party organization in that the chairman of the Administrative Group of the Economic Planning Commission ("Gruppe Verwaltung, Planwirtschaftskommission") is considered, in this capacity, a Shop Group functionary. The economic planning commissions now being set up in all Soviet AGs are instruments created to fulfill the Two-Year Plan. There is a planning group for each major construction branch of the plant (e.g., Gruppe Silitbau, Gruppe Ofenbau, etc.), all working under the supervision of the Administrative Group. As the quarterly production requirements are received by the plant management from Izolyator, the holding and operating company ("Dachgesellschaft") for the group of SAGs to which Siemens-Plania belongs, they will be passed to the Administrative Group for planning of material requirements and distribution of department quotas. The Administrative Group in turn will assign appropriate planning tasks to the subordinate groups, and consolidate the results of these plans. Goals

After approval by the management staff of Siemens-Plania, the plans will be returned to Izolyator, which, after approving, will pass them on to the SMA and the DWK for approval and information. The Administrative Group then will have the continuing responsibility of supervising, expediting, and "trouble-shooting" the execution of the plans. In addition to the inclusion of the chairman of the Administrative Group among the Shop Group functionaries, the SED has another check in that at least one member of the Administrative Group will be assigned from the Shop Group with the task of observing the actions of other members of the group and reporting to the party on them.

4. Around the first of the year (1949) the Shop Group functionaries of Siemens-Plania held a meeting to select plant "activists". Fifteen were selected, including personnel from each department of the plant. It is their task to propagandize for the SED (chiefly by touting social measures promoted by that party), recruiting other workers to form cells of activists (or "Aktivs"), setting Stakhanovite models for the promotion of the "Henneckebezugung", and surveillance of other employees in political, working, and private conduct. The activists selected were not named publicly, and the membership is known only to the functionaries. Named as "Number One Activist" was Henrion, German plant director ("Direktor des Werkes"). Henrion, a man of about thirty-six, is a pre-war Communist. An engineer, he is not a university graduate. He fled to Russia sometime during the Hitler period, and returned with the Soviet troops to Berlin. He speaks fluent Russian. A former Berliner, he is married and the father of two children. This did not, however, prevent his returning from the USSR with a Russian wife -- one Irene Ney -- by whom he has a child. Ney, was for some time an interpreter at Gema, another Soviet AG, and is now an interpreter at Siemens-Plania. Henrion himself began work in 1945 as a department head with Gema, and in 1946 transferred to OKB (a Soviet aeronautical construction office in Berlin-Friedrichshagen, Wilhelmstrasse and Fürstenwalderdamm). Early in 1947, OKB, with personnel and equipment, was sent to the USSR, and Henrion went to Siemens-Plania as director. Henrion is described as being intelligent and capable.

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5. Golsch (cf para. 1, above) has also spoken about the formation of "Kaders" in the Soviet AGs. Golsch, who is in his middle fifties, claims to have been a politician and party worker all his life, and to be a former member of the Brandenburg Landtag. A veteran Communist, he is supposed to have been in a German concentration camp during the war. He spoke to source of the "Kader" of the KPD in the pre-Hitler years, and asserted that the same system -- which he also referred to as the "Uberwachungsapparat" -- would now have to be recreated in the industries of the Soviet Sector and Zone. He made it clear that he was talking about the personal surveillance of executives and employees, both party and non-party, and that he did not mean the "Aktivs" described in the preceding paragraph. Golsch also spoke of the "Kader" now in the "German" Economic Commission, and indicated that he did not mean thereby the Central Control Commission of the DWK-- which, it is reported, has the assignment of supervision and surveillance of the economic execution of the Two-Year Plan.

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Comment: Not much confidence is placed in the accuracy of Golsch's use of the term "Kader". It is most likely that this term is as often used in an erroneous, or at least in an elastic sense (possibly out of nostalgia) by veteran Communists, as by intelligence officers studying the current development of the SED. It could very well be that Golsch was referring to nothing more than the Personnel Commissions and their surveillance methods. Pending further information, it is believed that Golsch's use of the term may be largely disregarded; however, the organization of the "Uberwachungsapparat", if called by any other name, is significant.)

ATTACHMENT:

1 Diagram

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